

# ProtectART4COLUMBUS

Statement by Larry James, Co-Chair, Protect Art 4 Columbus, 11/27/18

Thank you, Council President Hardin. Thank you for your leadership and your willingness to listen.

This afternoon, on behalf of the 2,000 members of our diverse citizens coalition, Protect Art 4 Columbus, I stand with you and GCAC to support the proposed 5% Ticket Fee compromise.

We support the ticket fee as a smart public policy to help protect and sustain Columbus' arts and cultural sector. There are several solid reasons our coalition supports the proposed ticket fee. I will today mention two of those extremely compelling reasons: the economic impact and the educational impact.

First, we must protect the economic impact of Columbus' art economy. That means 15,000 jobs and \$373 million in household income annually. Clearly an item on any company's checklist looking to locate to Columbus or grow its operations in Columbus is a strong arts, culture and entertainment community. The proposed ticket fee protects Columbus' art economy.

Secondly, we support the proposed ticket fee to protect access to the arts for all families and children because participation in the arts should not be limited by the zip code where families live. Sustainability of Columbus' arts through the ticket fee will help eliminate this disparity and better guarantee diversity in the arts. The ticket fee will help dramatically increase access to arts education opportunities for children in neighborhoods like Linden, Weiland Park, Franklinton, the Hilltop, the Southside and more.

Protect Art 4 Columbus believed GCAC's proposed ticket fee – and now this compromise - is fair and reasonable. This proposed fee will help keep the jobs, income, educational value, and civic vitality flowing to our community .

Finally, the question on most people's mind likely is, "What will the 5% fee cost me?" This is important: If you buy a \$15 ticket, the additional fee would be 75 cents. If you buy a \$25 ticket, the additional fee would be \$1.25. For a \$50 admission price, add an additional \$2.50; for a \$100 ticket, just \$5 more.

I am joined here today by several of Protect Art 4 Columbus co-chairs, and we are available following this news conference to talk to reporters. Thank you.

For more information about Protect Art 4 Columbus, for interviews with co-chairs, contact:  
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## CO-CHAIRS

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